

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of effectively treating nephritis, comprising:
selecting an animal in need of treatment for nephritis; and
administering to said animal a therapeutically effective dose of an antibody, or binding fragment thereof, that binds to platelet derived growth factor-DD (PDGF-DD).
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said animal is a human.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said antibody is a fully human monoclonal antibody.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said nephritis is selected from the group consisting of: mesangial proliferative nephritis, mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis, mesangiocapillary glomerulonephritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, glomerular nephritis, progressive renal disease, renal interstitial fibrosis, renal failure, and diabetic nephropathy.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the nephritis is related to proliferation of glomerular or mesangial cells.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said administration is via subcutaneous injection.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said administration is via intramuscular injection.
8. A method of inhibiting mesangial cell proliferation, comprising:
providing a monoclonal antibody, or binding fragment thereof, that binds platelet derived growth factor- DD (PDGF-DD); and
contacting proliferating mesangial cells with said monoclonal antibody under conditions that result in inhibited proliferation of said cells.
9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said antibody is a fully human monoclonal antibody.
10. The method of Claim 8, wherein said mesangial cells are human mesangial cells.
11. A method of effectively treating mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis, comprising:

selecting an animal in need of treatment for mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis; and

administering to said animal a therapeutically effective dose of an antibody, or binding fragment thereof, that binds to platelet derived growth factor-DD (PDGF-DD).

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said animal is a human.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said antibody is a fully human monoclonal antibody.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein said administration is via subcutaneous injection.

15. The method of Claim 11, wherein said administration is via intramuscular injection.

16. A method of detecting nephritis, comprising:

selecting a patient at risk for nephritis;

contacting a renal cell from said patient with an antibody, or binding fragment thereof, that binds PDGF-DD; and

detecting binding of said cells and said antibody, wherein a detectable binding is indicative of nephritis.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein said antibody is a fully human monoclonal antibody.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein said antibody is labelled with a marker selected from the group consisting of: a fluorochrome, an enzyme, a radionuclide and a radiopaque material.

20. The method of Claim 16, wherein said binding fragment comprises a Fab' fragment.

21. The method of Claim 16, wherein said nephritis is selected from the group consisting of: mesangial proliferative nephritis, mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis, mesangiocapillary glomerulonephritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, glomerular nephritis, progressive renal disease, renal interstitial fibrosis, renal failure, and diabetic nephropathy.